

International Weather and Crop Summary

July 11 - 17, 2004

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Across northern, central, and southeastern Europe, widespread rainy, cool weather favored reproductive summer crops but slowed winter grain maturation and harvesting.

FSU-WESTERN: Moderate to heavy rain halted winter wheat harvesting in Ukraine, while several days of dry weather helped harvest activities in southern Russia.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Dryness persisted in major spring grain areas in north-central Kazakhstan and the Urals Region in Russia, stressing crops in or nearing the reproductive phase of development.

EASTERN ASIA: Across portions of central China, South Korea, and northern Japan, heavy showers caused local flooding but generally favored reproductive crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread showers maintained high moisture levels in the Philippines, while showers favored rice in Indochina.

SOUTH ASIA: Unseasonable warmth and dryness raised concern for rainfed summer crops in central India, but conditions were generally favorable elsewhere in the region.

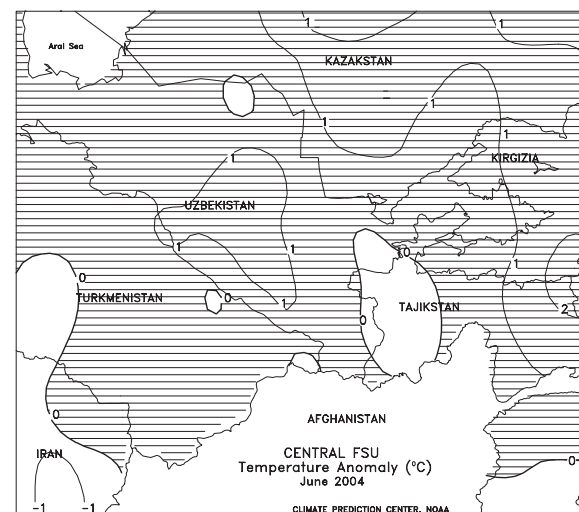
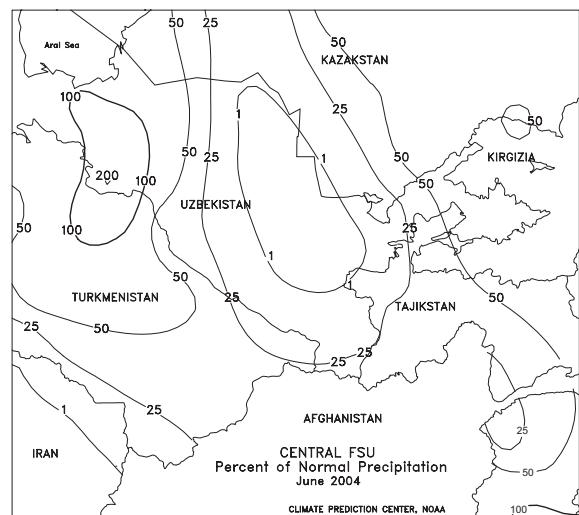
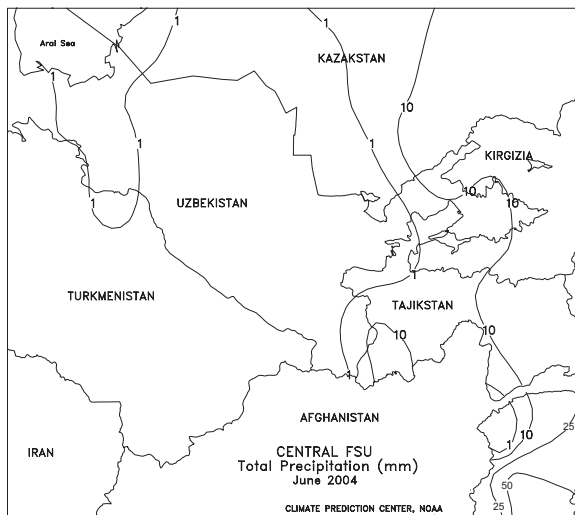
AUSTRALIA: Showers were welcomed in southeastern Australia, but more rain is needed to ensure crop prospects and eliminate long-term moisture deficits.

CANADA: Much-needed, warmer weather spurred development of Prairie grains and oilseeds.

MEXICO: Widespread showers continued to favor summer crops and pastures across most of northwestern, central, and southern Mexico.

BRAZIL: Showers caused some additional delays in coffee harvesting.

ARGENTINA: Dry weather promoted winter wheat planting, but below-normal temperatures slowed germination.

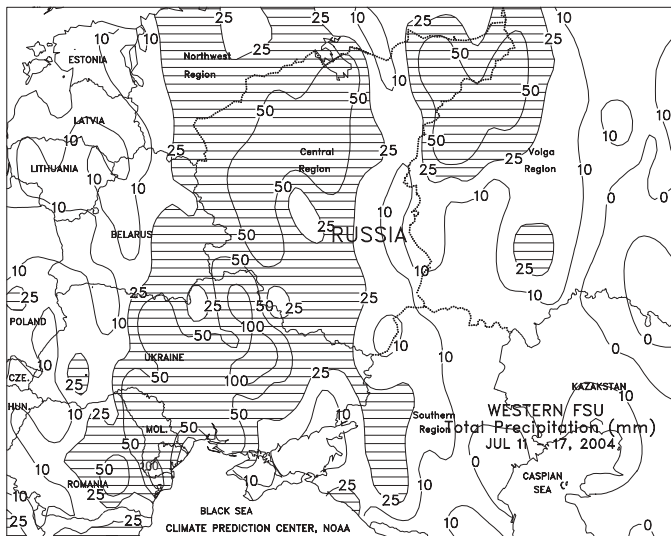
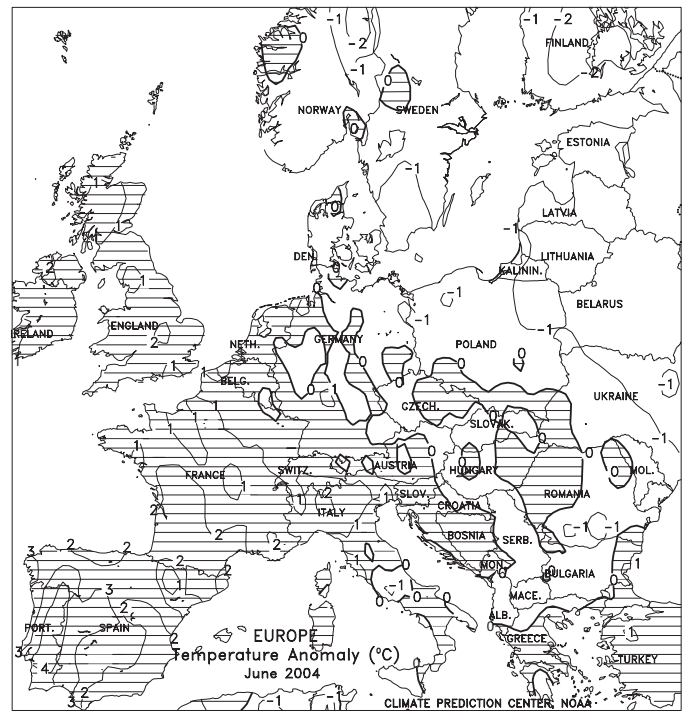




EUROPE

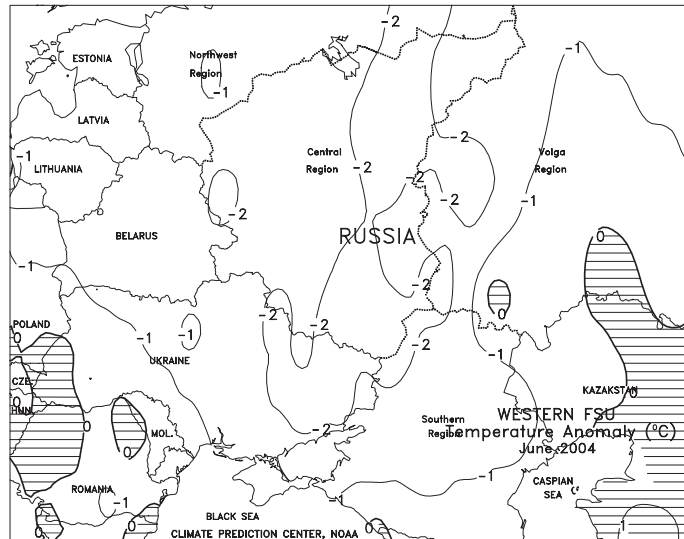
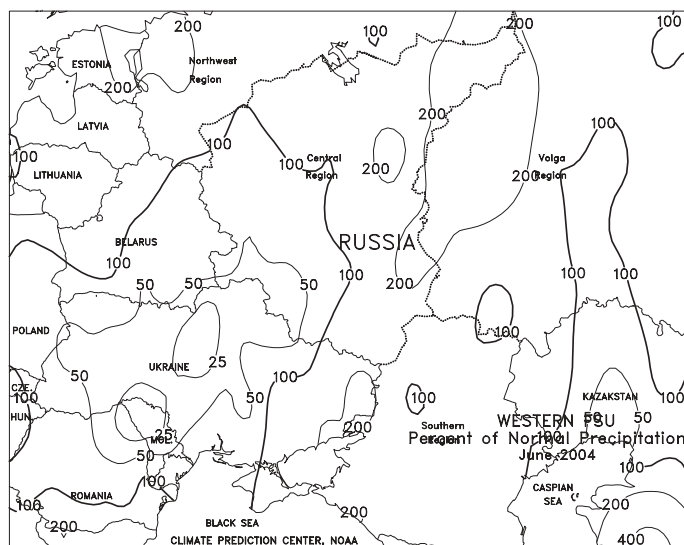
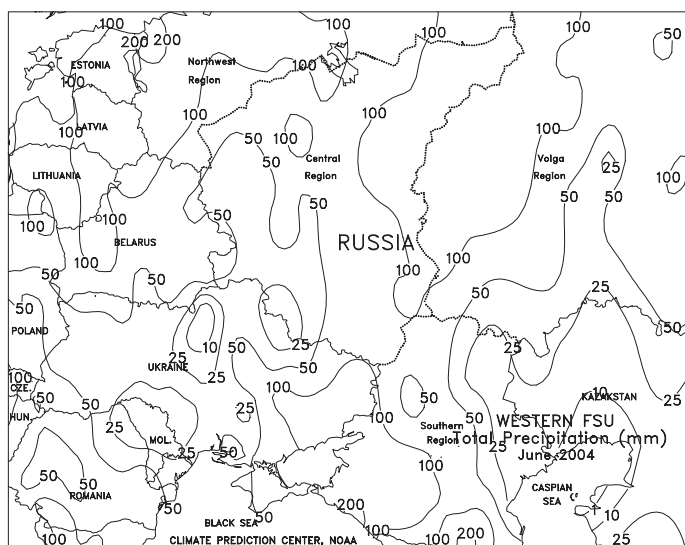
The same weather pattern continued across Europe, with widespread rain (10-30 mm) across England and northern France, eastward into Poland and the Czech Republic, favoring reproductive spring and summer crops. Heavier rain (30-50 mm) fell across the Low Countries and portions of northern Germany, possibly reducing grain quality for maturing winter wheat. Mostly dry, but cool, weather (less than 10 mm) prevailed across Hungary, Slovakia, and northern Serbia, favoring winter grain harvesting but reducing soil moisture for reproductive summer crops. Adequate soil moisture still exists for summer crops across these regions, but more rain is needed to maintain favorable crop prospects. In the lower Danube River Valley, widespread rain boosted soil moisture for reproductive corn but slowed winter grain maturation. Across most of Italy and Spain, seasonably dry weather favored winter grain harvesting but increased irrigation demands for reproductive summer crops in Italy's Po Valley. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal across most of Europe, reducing evapotranspiration rates for summer crops. Maximum temperatures only briefly reached the lower 30s across central France, northern Italy, and southeastern Europe. During June, across central and eastern Europe, near- to above-normal rainfall continued to favor reproductive winter grains and vegetative summer crops. Near-normal June rainfall maintained adequate soil moisture in England. In France, however, below-normal rainfall stressed rainfed summer crops but favored filling to maturing winter grains. In Spain and northern Italy, mostly dry weather favored winter grain harvesting but increased irrigation demands for summer crops in northern Italy.

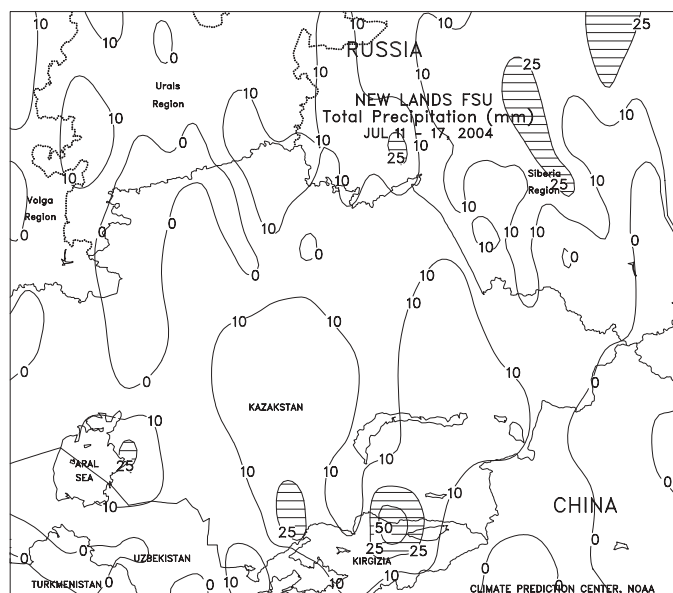




FSU-WESTERN

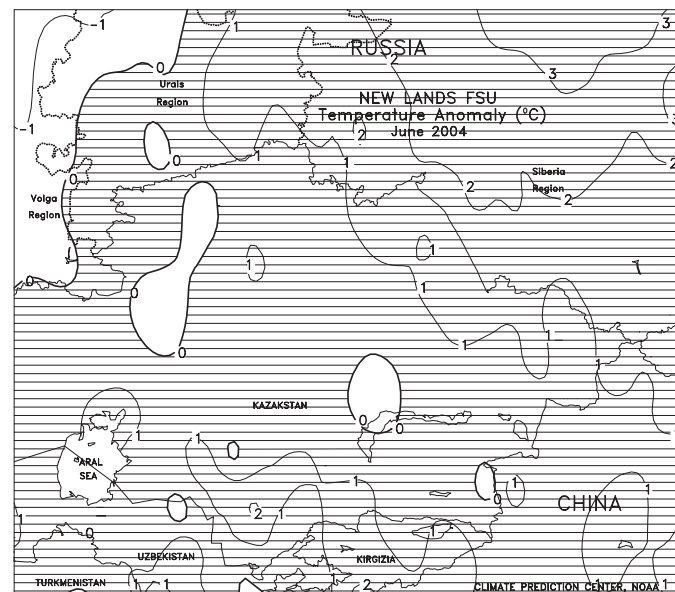
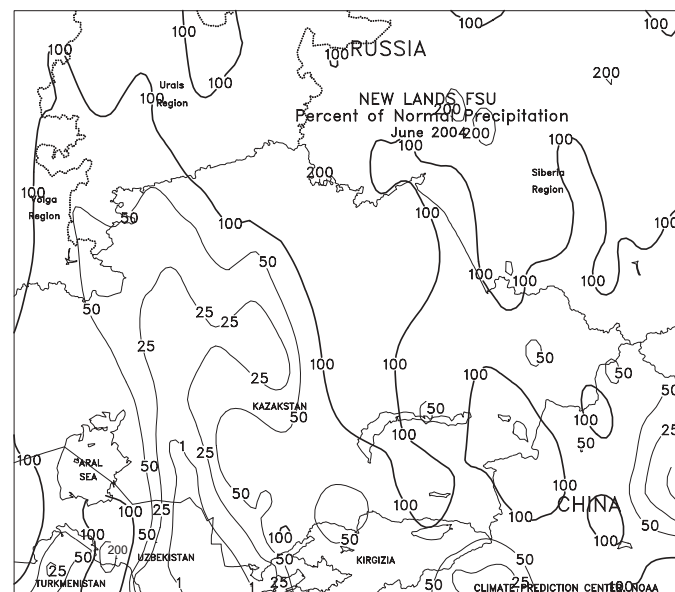
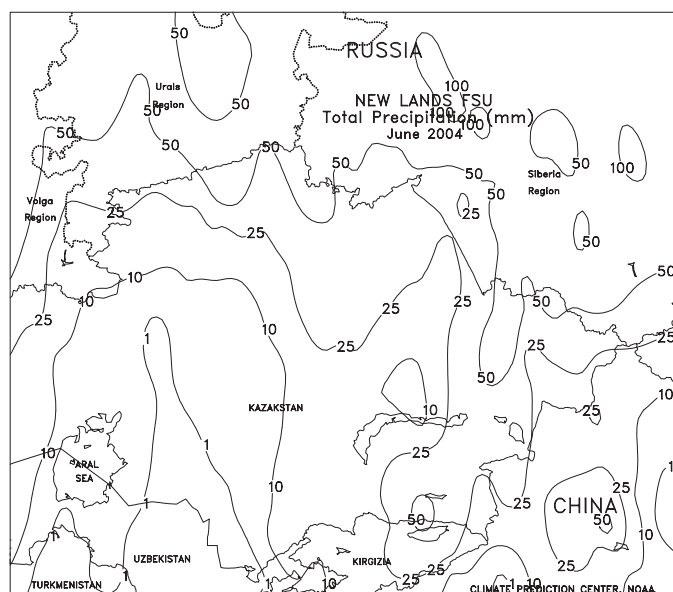
In Russia, early-week dry weather aided winter grain harvesting in the Southern and Volga regions. Late-week scattered showers (10-25 mm) caused only minor fieldwork delays. Soil moisture was adequate in these areas to sustain normal development of spring grains in the filling stage and summer crops in or nearing reproduction. Widespread moderate showers (15-50 mm or more) in the Central Region slowed winter grain maturation but favored spring grains in the filling stage. In Ukraine, showers and thunderstorms produced moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) in the central two-thirds of the country, halting winter wheat harvesting and creating the potential for some lodging of wheat. However, the precipitation alleviated dryness in southwestern Ukraine, improving growing conditions for spring-sown crops. Elsewhere, light to moderate showers (5-25 mm) in Belarus favored immature winter grains and spring-sown crops, while heavy rain (50-100 mm) soaked crop areas in Moldova. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal in Ukraine and Belarus and 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in Russia. In June, above-normal precipitation and unseasonably cool weather prevailed throughout most of Russia, providing adequate to abundant moisture for crop development. The greatest amounts of precipitation (100-200 mm) fell in the western portions of the Southern and Volga Regions and in the eastern portion of the Central Region. Major crop areas in the Southern Region experienced the second wettest June weather in at least the past 25 years. By month's end, the rain likely hampered the start of large-scale winter wheat harvesting and created the potential for lodging of winter wheat. In Ukraine, well-below-normal precipitation prevailed over the western portion of the country, while near- to above-normal rainfall was observed in southern and eastern areas. The dryness in western Ukraine limited moisture for winter wheat and spring-sown crop development, while the wetness in eastern Ukraine created the potential for some lodging of winter wheat.





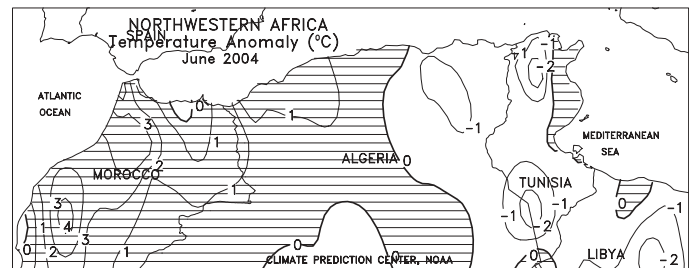
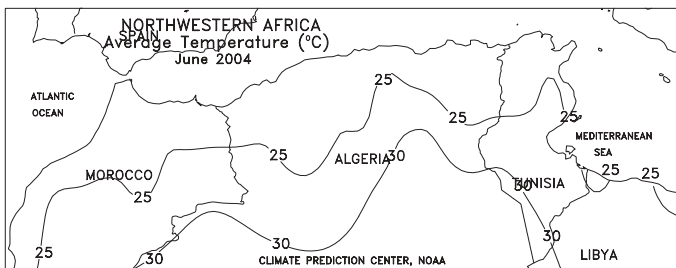
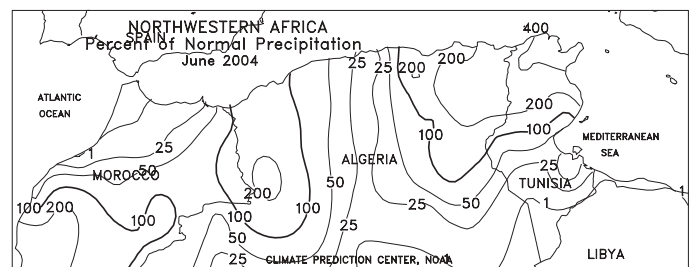
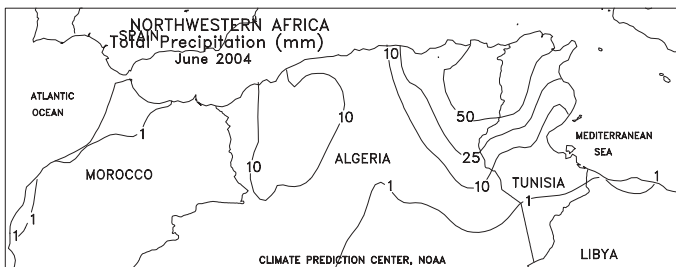
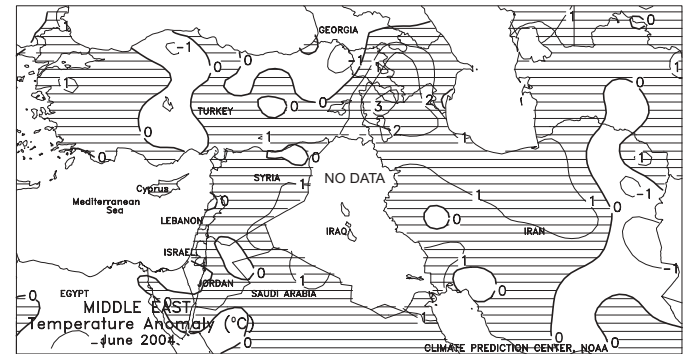
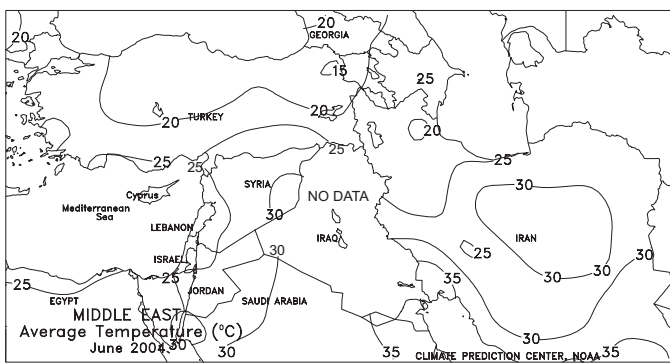
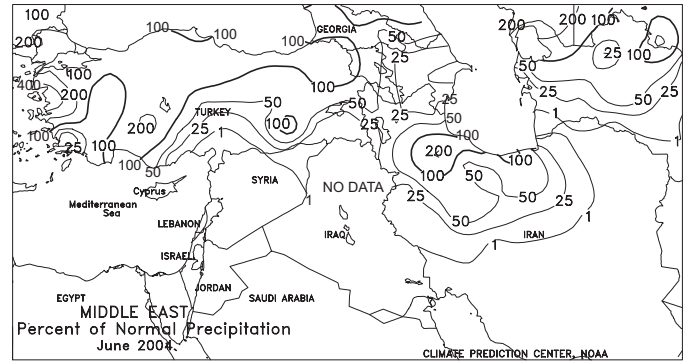
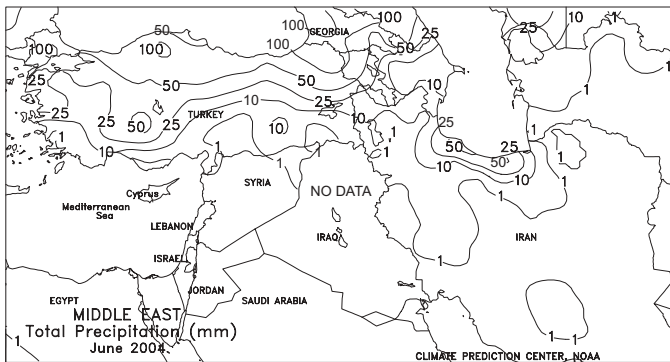
FSU-NEW LANDS

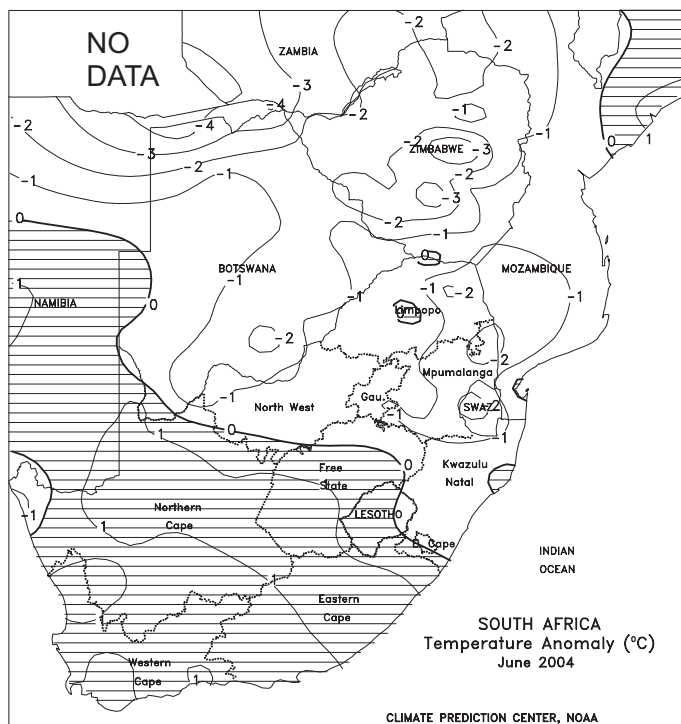
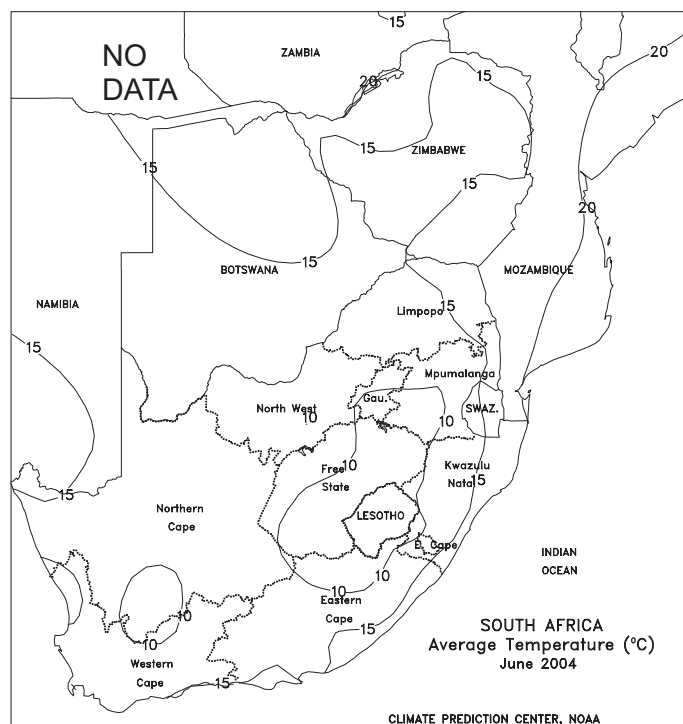
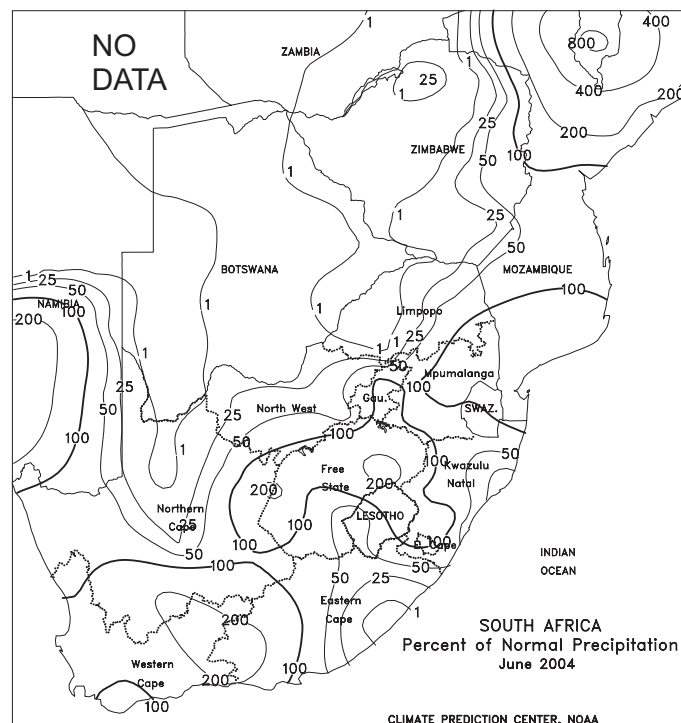
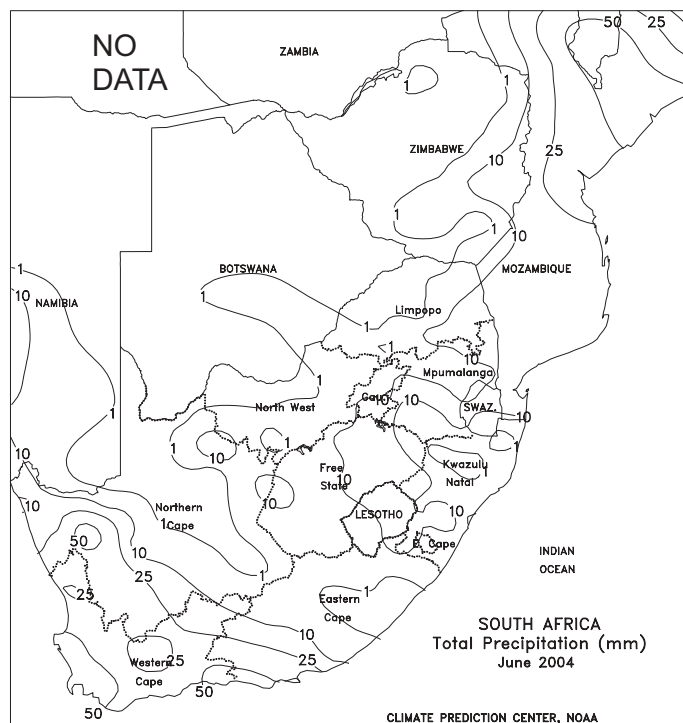
Spring grains were in or nearing the reproductive phase of development over most of the region. In Russia, light to moderate showers (5-15 mm or more) maintained adequate moisture for spring grains in Siberia. However, dry weather persisted in the Urals Region, stressing spring grains. In Kazakhstan, dryness worsened throughout major-spring grain areas in the north-central portion of the country, increasing stress on crops. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal in most of Russia and Kazakhstan. In June, near- to above-normal precipitation favored spring grains in the vegetative stage in most of Russia. The exception was in the southern Urals, where below-normal precipitation was observed. In Kazakhstan, below-normal precipitation continued a drying trend that began in May, lowering crop conditions for spring grains. However, monthly temperatures averaged near normal in key spring grain areas of north-central Kazakhstan, lessening the potential for heat stress on crops.

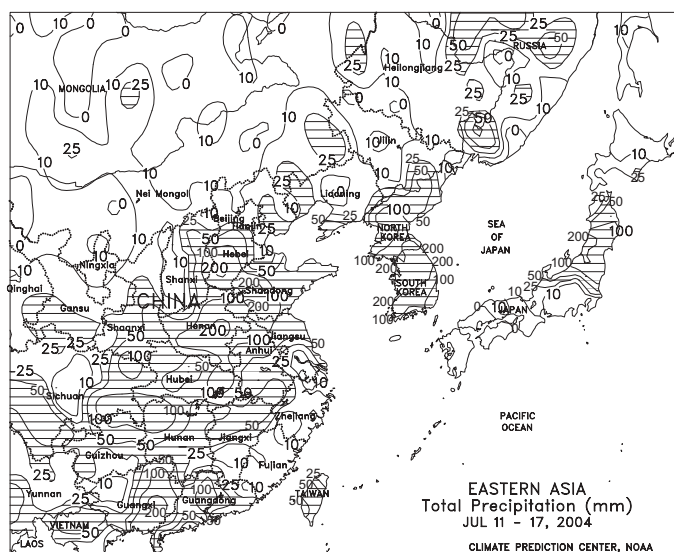


MIDDLE EAST

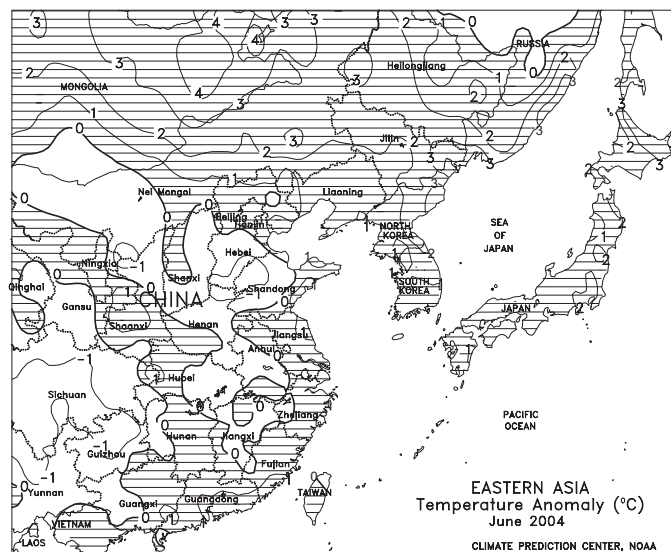
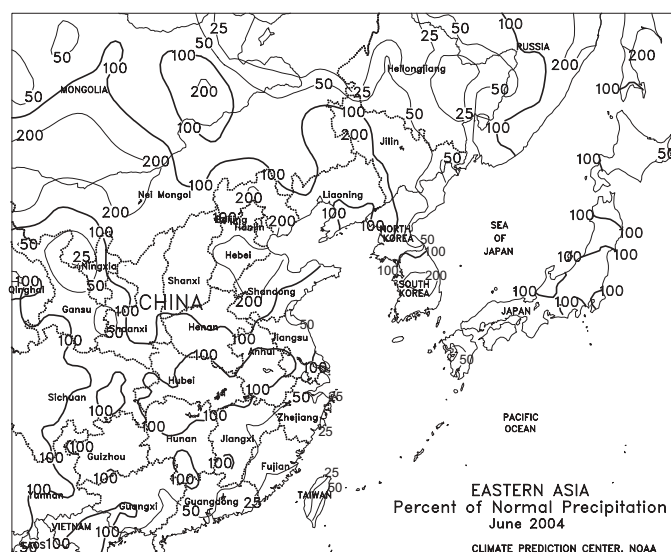
Across central Turkey, near- to above-normal June rainfall and seasonable temperatures favored filling winter grains. In western Iran, drier weather in June aided winter grain maturation and early harvesting.

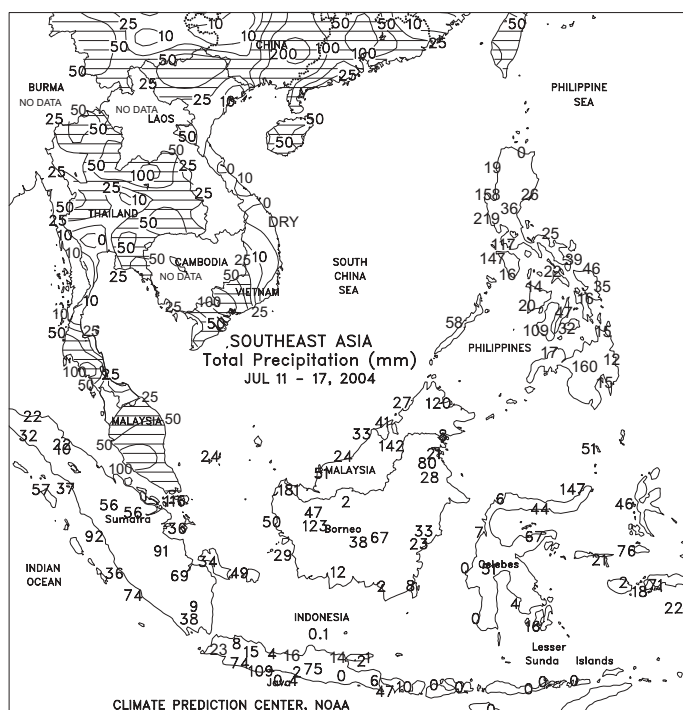




**EASTERN ASIA**

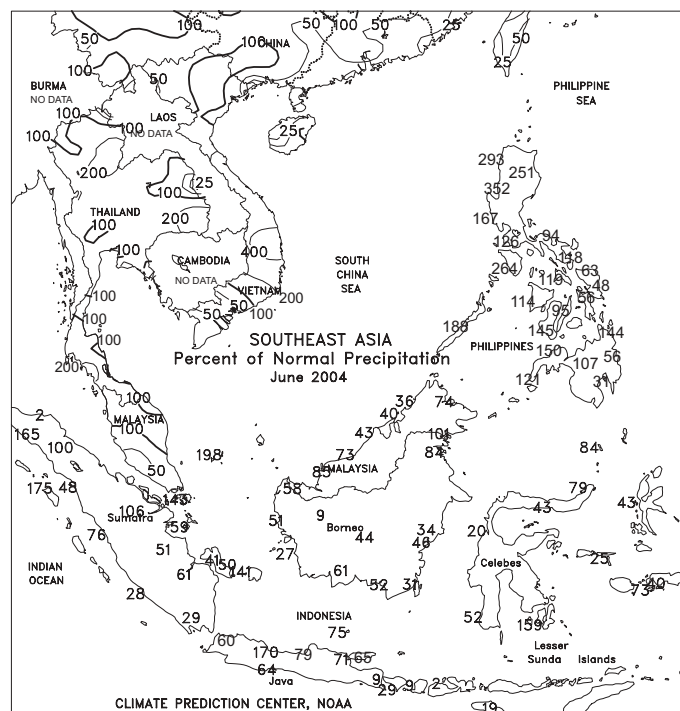
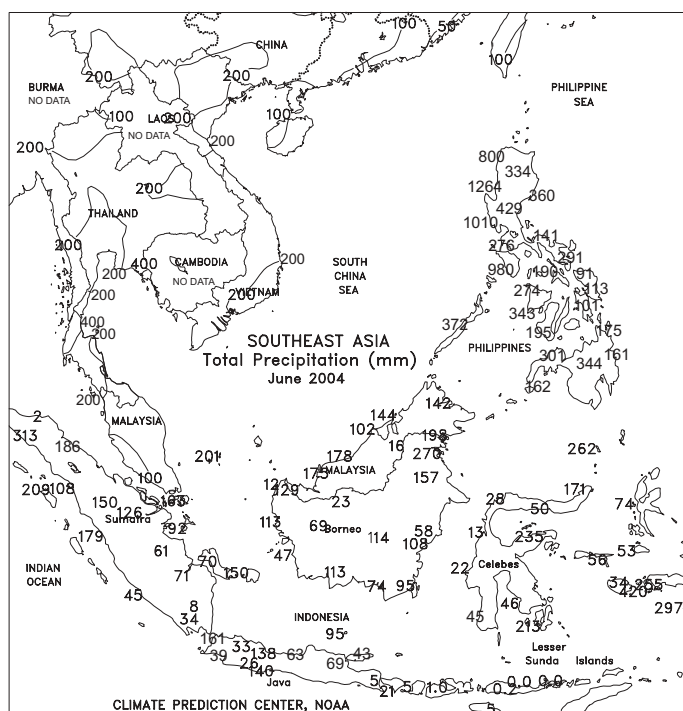
Light showers (10-25 mm) throughout Manchuria maintained adequate soil moisture for reproductive corn and soybeans. Heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) fell along a frontal boundary that stretched from Shandong to Sichuan. The showers favored reproductive crops on the North China Plain while causing some flooding along the Yangtze River. Generally dry weather prevailed in southeastern China, reducing moisture supplies for rice, sugarcane, and other moisture-intensive crops. Temperatures were near to slightly below normal with highs around 30 degrees C. The frontal boundary in China extended into the Koreans, causing heavy rainfall, especially in South Korea where flooding likely occurred. The front also produced heavy showers in northern Honshu, Japan. In June, above-normal rainfall benefited vegetative corn, soybeans, and cotton on the North China Plain and southern Manchuria. Below-normal precipitation in northern Manchuria created unfavorably dry conditions for vegetative crops. Showers favored crops along the Yangtze River, while below-normal rainfall was observed in rice areas of southern China. Tropical storms caused flooding in central South Korea and parts of southern Japan. Temperatures were near normal throughout most of China but were slightly above normal in Manchuria, the Koreans, and Japan.

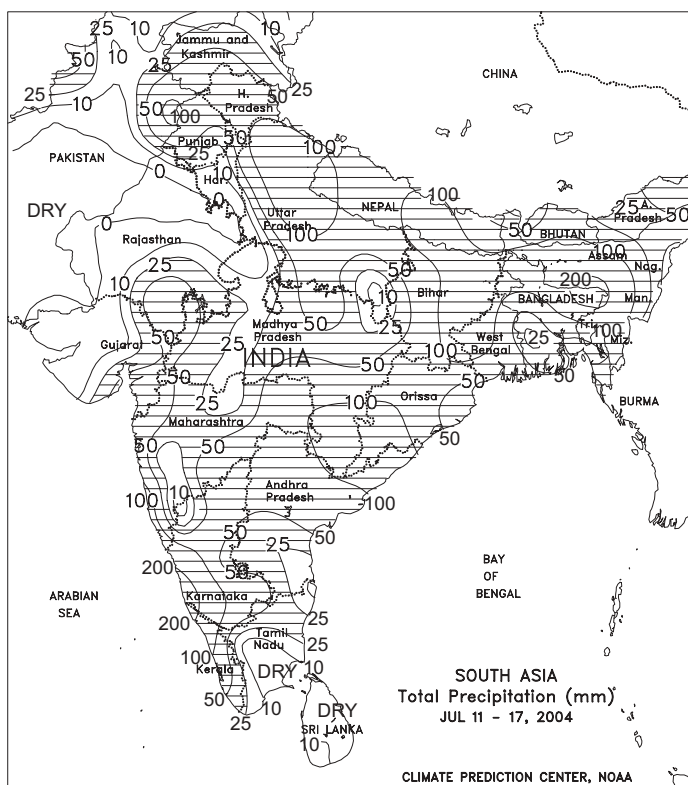
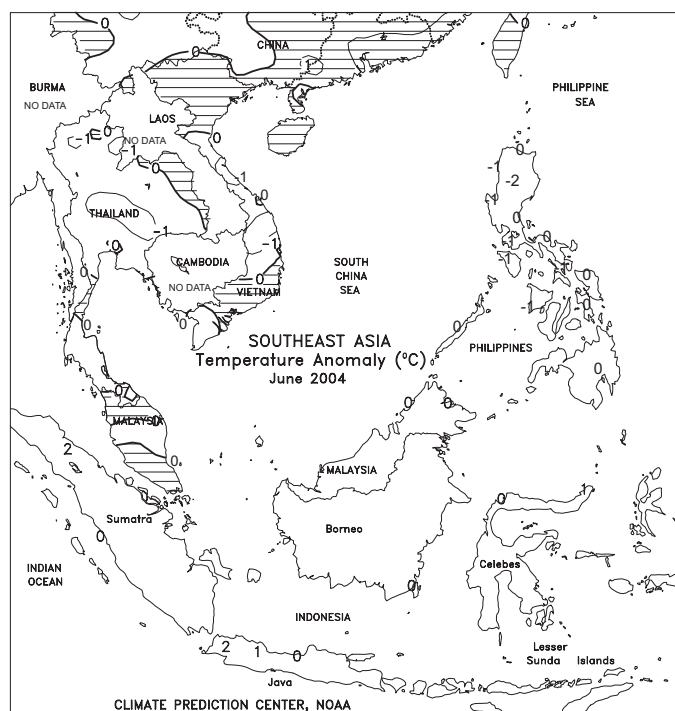
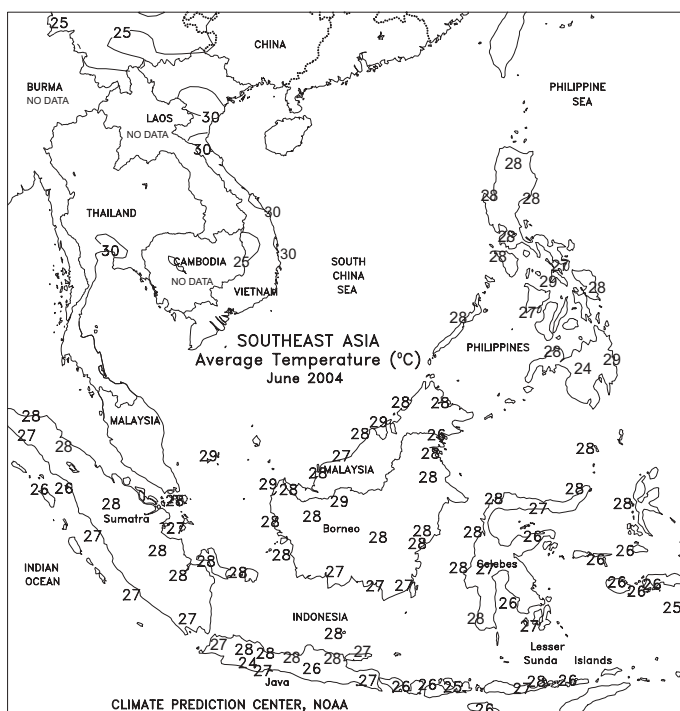




SOUTHEAST ASIA

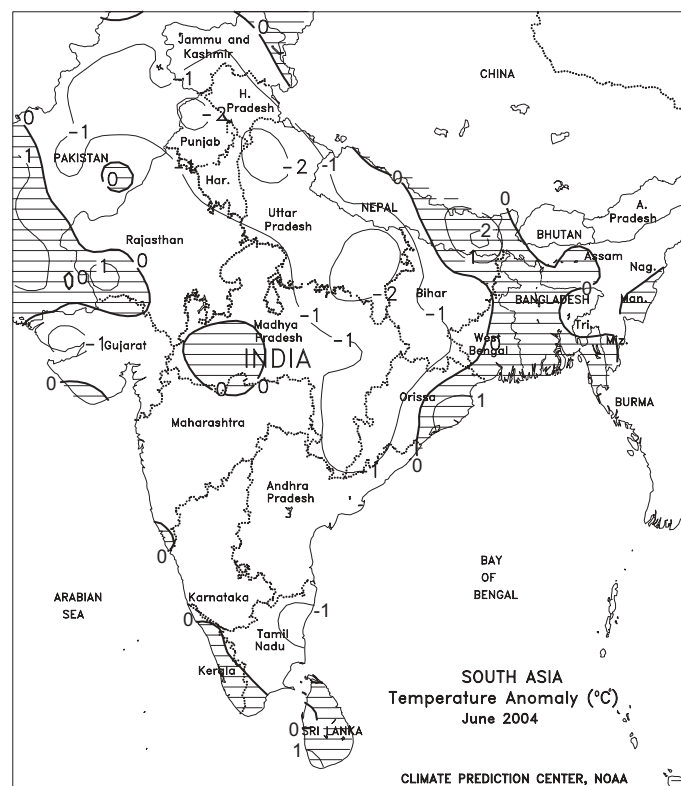
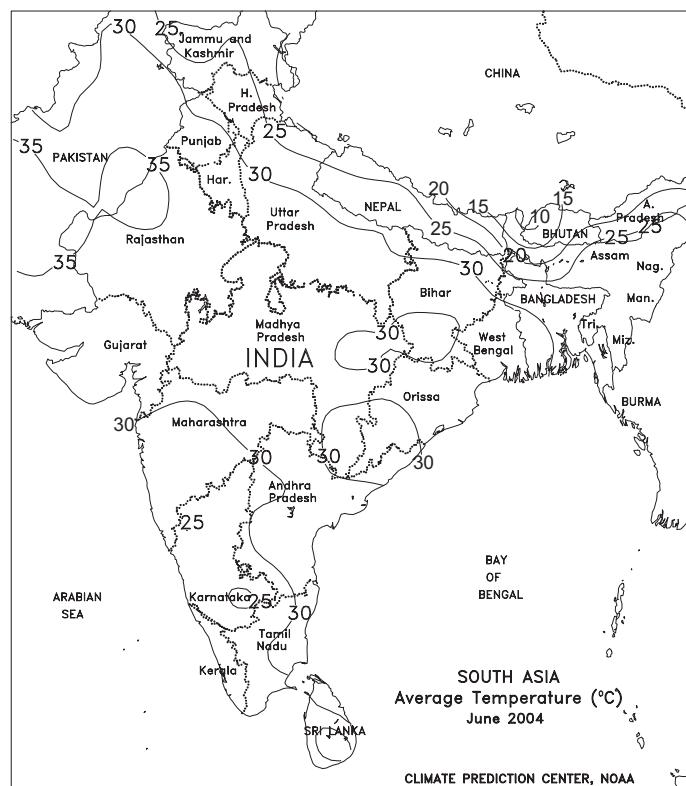
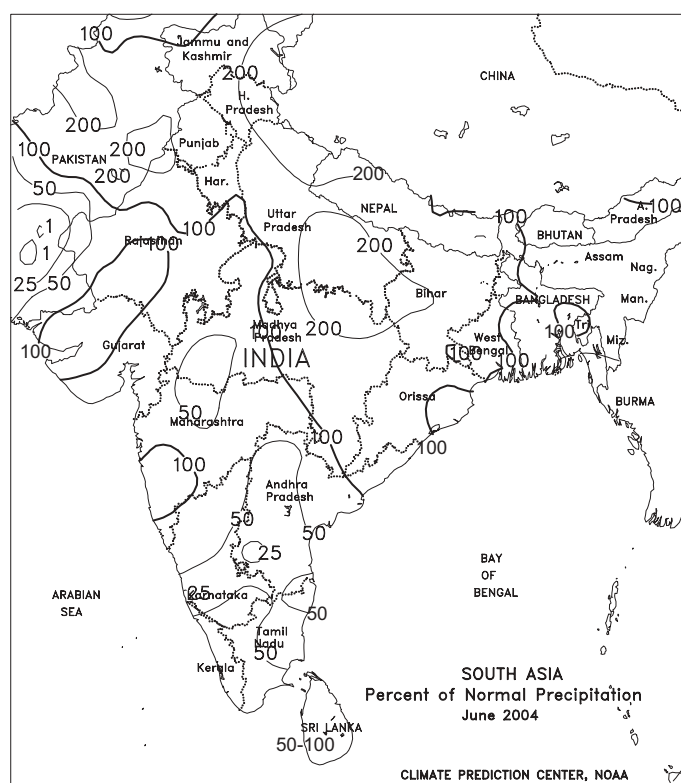
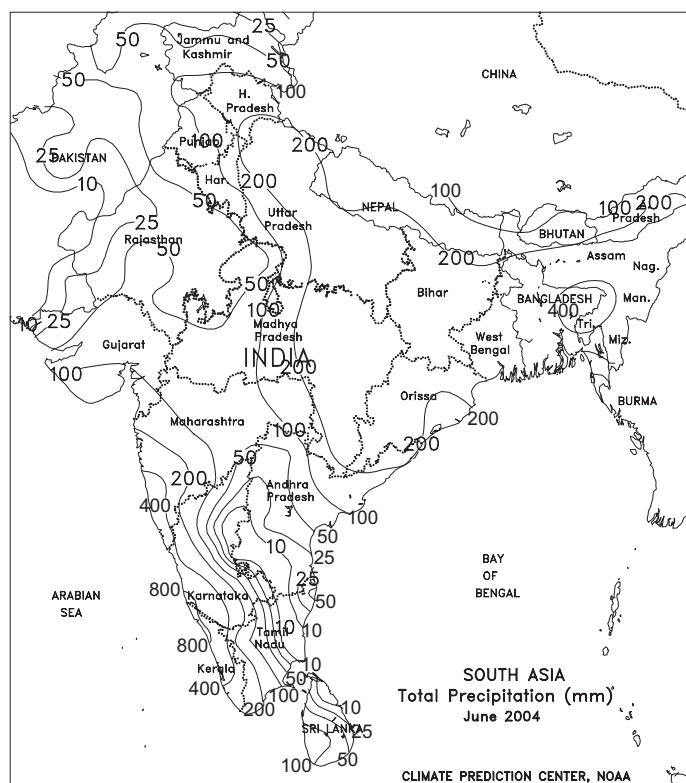
Monsoon showers (25-50 mm or more) throughout most of the Philippines maintained good moisture supplies for rice and corn. In Thailand, showers (25-50 mm) favored rice and corn, while heavier showers (50-100 mm) along the Mekong River caused some flooding in southern Vietnam. Heavy showers (50-100 mm) boosted moisture supplies for oil palm in Malaysia and Indonesia. In June, Typhoons Conson and Mindulle caused flooding in northern crop areas of the Philippines, while monsoon showers benefited crops in the central and southern Philippines. Typhoon Chanthu brought flooding rains to central Vietnam, while drier-than-normal weather favored summer-autumn rice harvesting in the south. Nearly all of Thailand experienced above-normal showers, favoring rice and corn.

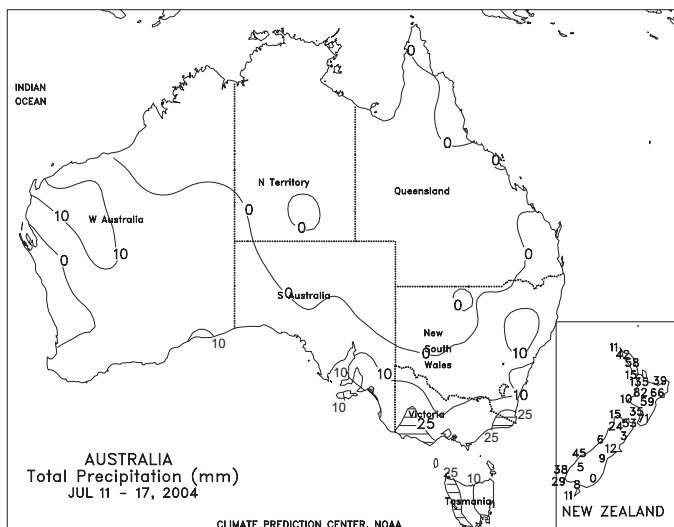




SOUTH ASIA

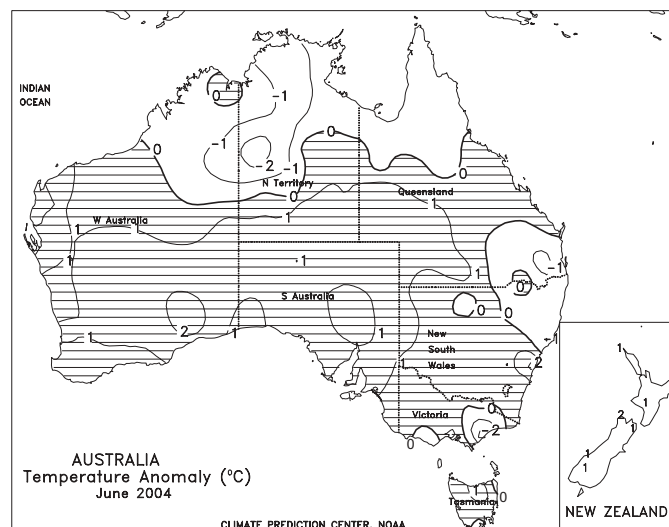
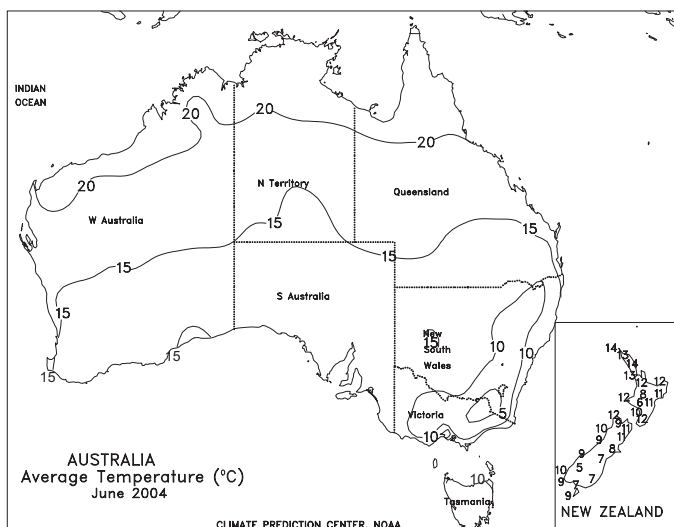
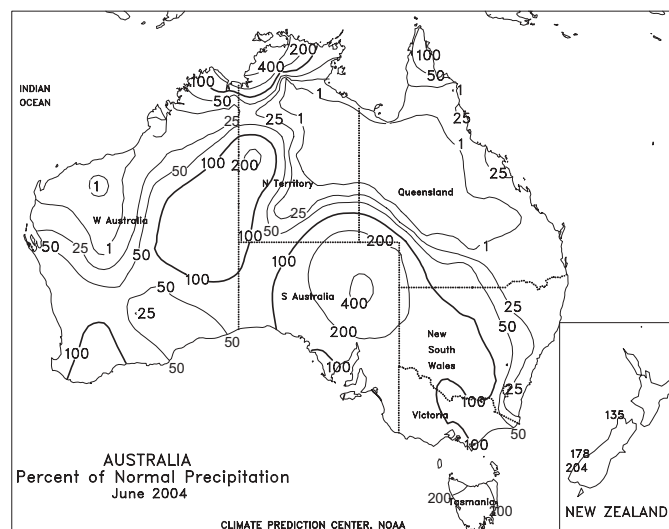
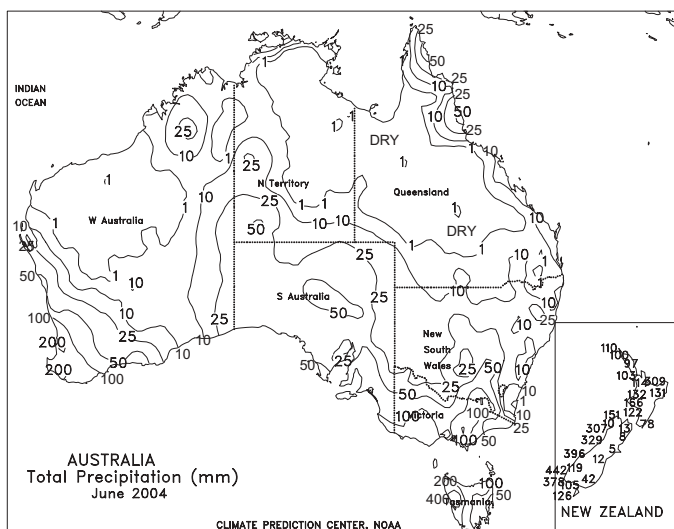
A lull in the southwest monsoon circulation brought unseasonable warmth (highs in the middle and upper 30s degrees C) and dryness to a broad section of western and central India (Gujarat, Rajasthan, and large sections of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh). Late-week showers (10-50 mm or more) brought some relief, but moisture remained limited for normal development of rainfed grains, oilseeds, and cotton, and more consistent rainfall will be needed as crops enter reproductive phases of development. Farther south, an increase in showers (25-50 mm or more) boosted moisture levels for summer cropping in previously dry locations of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and neighboring locations of Maharashtra. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) maintained irrigation reserves in rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh, and northern India's irrigated rice and cotton areas. In Pakistan, showers were generally confined to the far north and northern sections of Punjab, as warmth and dryness remained entrenched over major growing areas of the middle and lower Indus Valley. During June, the region's weather was characterized by an erratic monsoon, a tropical cyclone, and westerly storms that lingered over northernmost parts of the region, all of which represent anomalies for the start of the summer rainy season in South Asia. As a result, precipitation was near to above normal across northern sections of India and Pakistan, eastern India, and Bangladesh, providing abundant moisture for rice and other summer crops but resulting in locally severe flooding. In addition, near-to below-normal temperatures and cloudy weather were unfavorable for cotton development in parts of Pakistan and north-central India. In contrast, rainfall was infrequent and generally below normal over much of central and southern India, although a surge in monsoon rainfall during mid-June likely encouraged widespread planting in primary soybean, groundnut, and cotton areas of central India. June temperatures averaged near to below normal, with stressful heat generally confined to traditionally warmer locations in western India and southern Pakistan. By month's end, the monsoon circulation appeared to be strengthening, but the poor early performance left non-irrigated crop areas of central and southern India with limited moisture reserves for normal crop development and, consequently, more dependent on July and August rainfall.

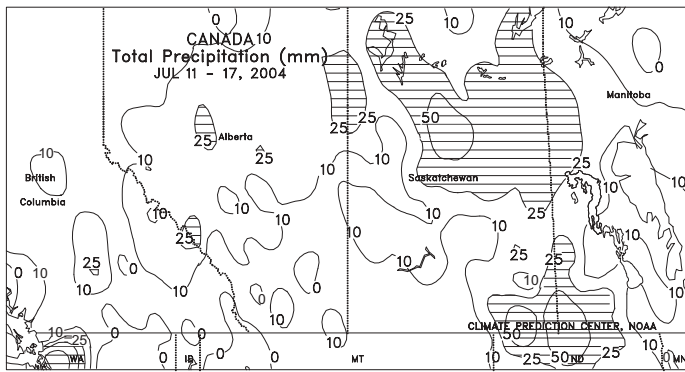




AUSTRALIA

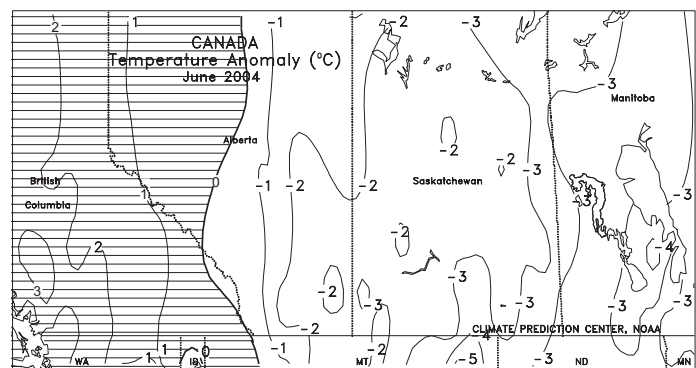
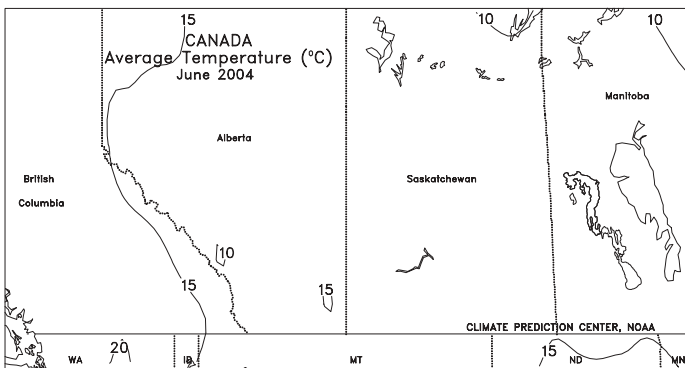
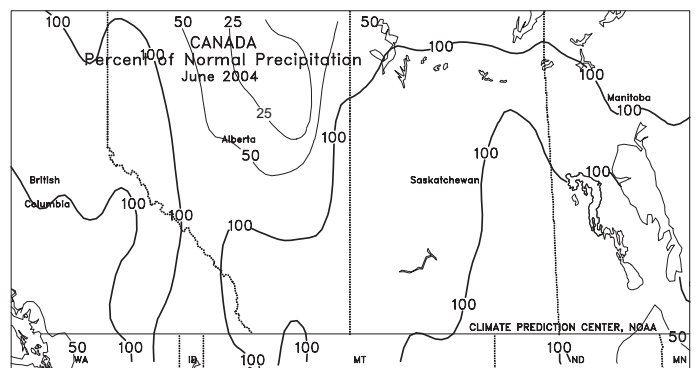
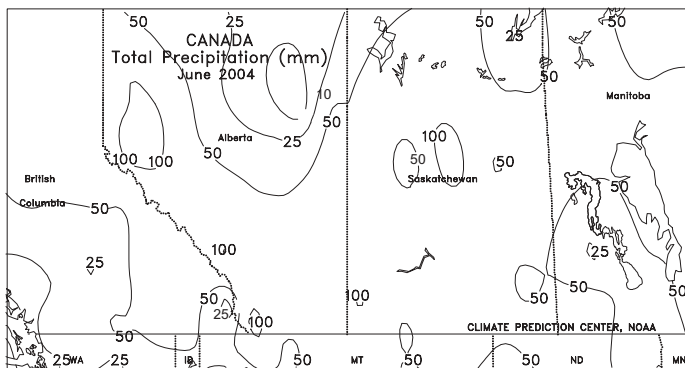
Following 3 weeks of widespread rainfall, mostly dry (less than 3 mm) weather overspread Western Australia. The drier weather favored fieldwork, but moisture supplies remained adequate to abundant for winter grain development. In contrast, across South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales, scattered, light showers (3-12 mm) moistened topsoils for winter wheat and barley. The showers were welcomed in southeastern Australia, but more rain is needed to ensure crop prospects and eliminate long-term moisture deficits. Farther north, light showers (2-8 mm) fell in northern New South Wales, but dry weather prevailed in Queensland. Following several months of near- to above-normal rainfall in these areas, precipitation has been well below normal during the past 2 months. Although the extended period of soaking rains was beneficial prior to winter grain planting, yield prospects will likely decline in these areas if this trend of relatively dry weather continues into the spring. Temperatures in Australia were generally seasonable. During June, regular showers boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain planting and early development in western and southern Australia, but caused only temporary fieldwork delays. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather further reduced moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

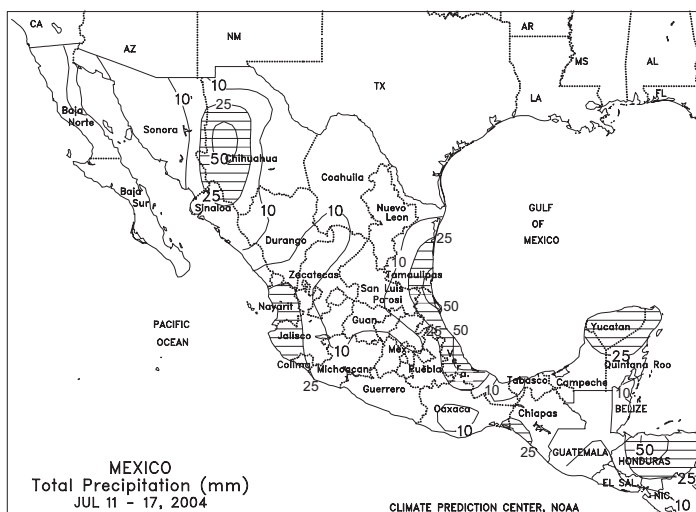




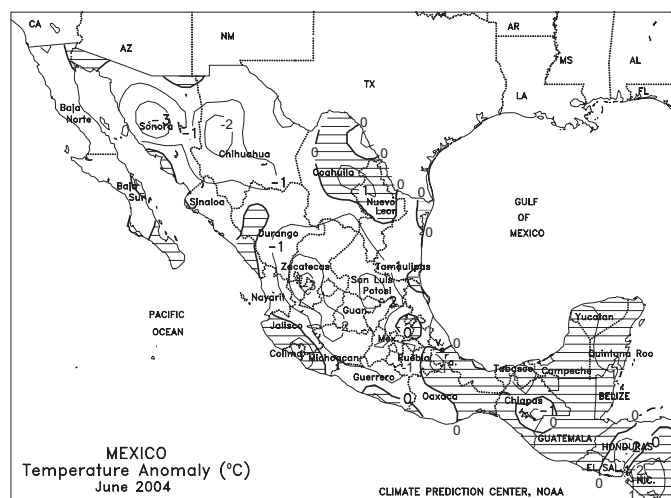
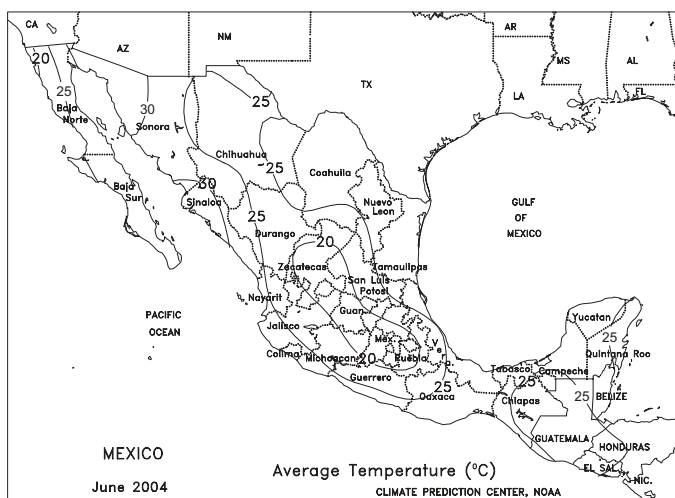
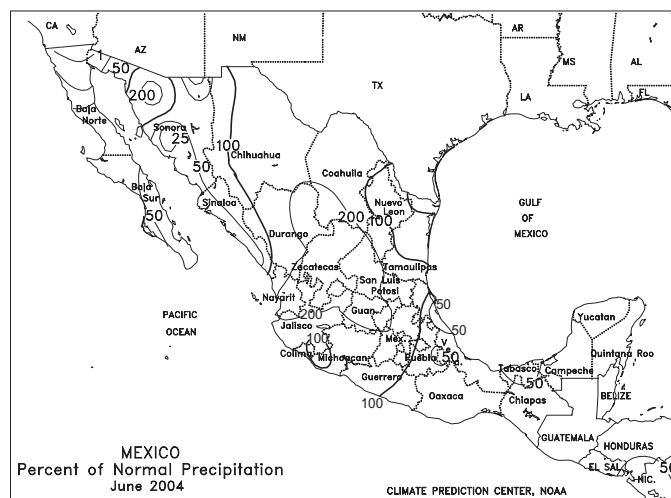
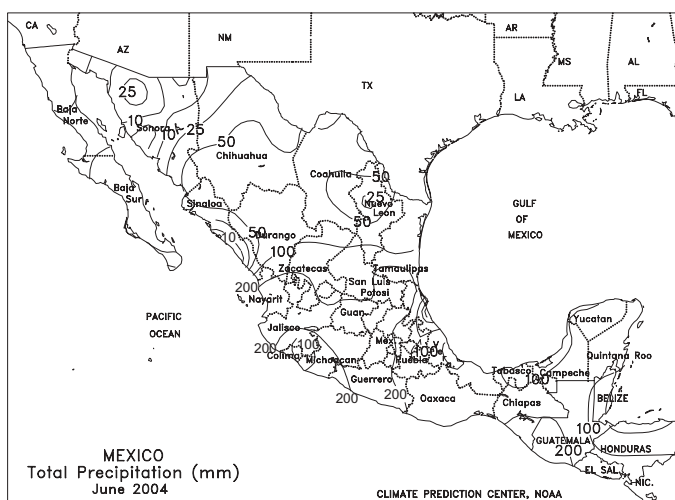
CANADA

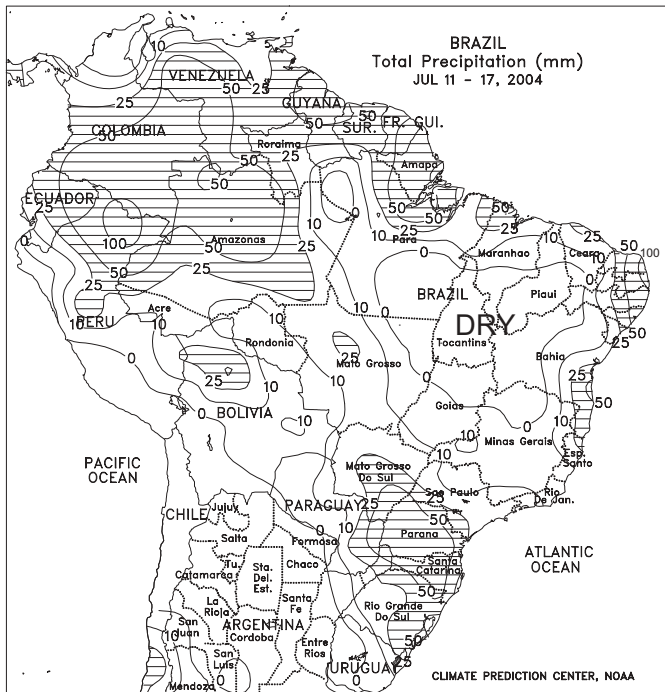
On the Prairies, near- to above-normal temperatures (1-3 degrees C above normal, with highs in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C) helped to advance development of spring grains and oilseeds in or nearing reproductive stages of development. Periodic showers (5-25 mm or more) maintained adequate to abundant moisture reserves for crop development in northern and eastern growing areas, but mostly dry weather prevailed over the southwest. In eastern Canada, warmer weather (near normal, with highs in the upper 20s degrees C) boosted growth of summer crops and pastures. Showers were mostly light (less than 25 mm) in corn and soybean areas of southern Ontario but heavier elsewhere, maintaining mostly favorable crop moisture reserves but likely hampering fieldwork, including early winter wheat harvesting. During June, cool showery weather dominated most Canadian crop areas. On the Prairies, conditions slowed spring fieldwork, including final spring crop plantings and maintained disease pressure on eastern crops, but the moisture helped to alleviate long-term drought in the western Prairies. Crops were reportedly 1 to 2 weeks behind the usual pace of development. In eastern Canada, summer crops were also reportedly behind in development, although winter wheat and pastures were well watered.



**MEXICO**

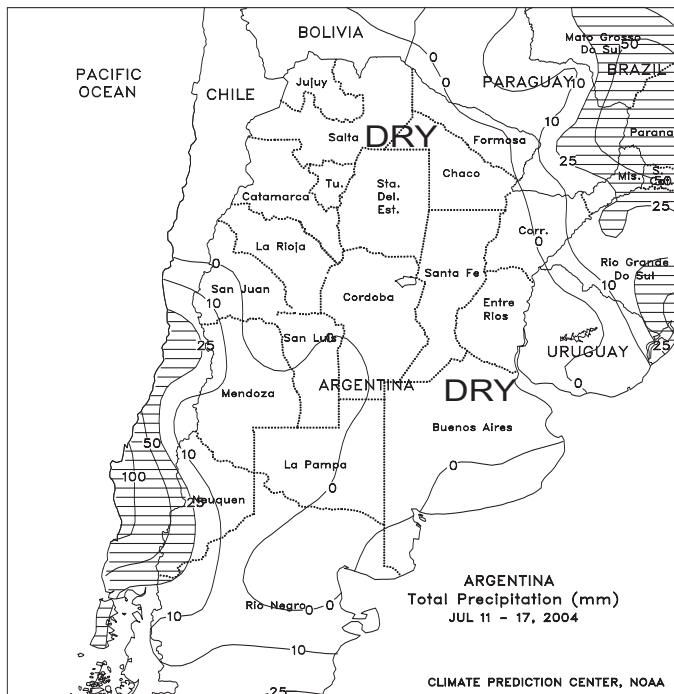
Widespread showers (10-25 mm or more) continued across the main Mexican corn belt, southern Mexico, and the Yucatan Peninsula, maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture for vegetative corn, sugarcane, coffee, and oranges. Widespread showers (10-50 mm) also covered northwestern Mexico (Sonora, Sinaloa, and most of Chihuahua), boosting irrigation supplies and favoring pastures. Mostly dry weather prevailed across northeastern Mexico, reducing moisture supplies in the Rio Grande Valley Watershed. Temperatures averaged near normal across most of Mexico. In June, above-normal rainfall covered north-central Mexico and the main corn areas of central Mexico, maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture for vegetative corn. Near-normal June rain fell across southeastern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula. June temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal across central Mexico, reducing crop water use and near normal elsewhere.



**BRAZIL**

Unseasonable showers (10-25 mm more) hampered coffee harvesting in southwestern production areas (Mato Grosso do Sul, Parana, and Sao Paulo) and likely raised additional quality concerns. Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather promoted maturation and harvesting in most other major coffee areas. Freezing temperatures continued to stay well south of the main coffee areas. In Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, mild, showery weather (near-normal temperatures; precipitation totaling 10-25 mm or more) maintained generally favorable moisture reserves for vegetative winter wheat but kept maturing winter corn unfavorably wet. Elsewhere, scattered showers (10-50 mm or more) continued in cocoa and sugarcane areas along the northeastern coast, while warmer, drier weather maintained irrigation reserves for interior corn and cotton. In June, a midmonth drying trend brought some relief to maturing coffee, reportedly delayed in development due to weeks of unseasonable wetness and experiencing significant local harvest delays. Conditions were generally favorable in the south for winter wheat development farther north, generally seasonable conditions favored irrigated row crop in the northeastern interior, as well as coastal plantation crops.





ARGENTINA

Dry weather continued to dominate the major agricultural areas. However, a cooling trend (temperatures averaging near to below normal, with lows reaching -8 degrees C in some locations) slowed germination and early development in the primary winter wheat areas of central Argentina. During June, mostly dry weather prevailed, enabling final corn and soybean harvesting and winter wheat planting. Late in the month, scattered showers helped to condition fields for planting in unfavorably dry southern growing areas, but moisture reserves remained unfavorably low for even germination and establishment.

